

BRONX COUNTY BAR AGAINST SOCIALISTS

**Finds Expulsion of the Five
Assemblymen is War-
ranted.**

PARTY PLEDGES BAR THEM

**Ineligible by Reason of Their Inabil-
ity to Vote Military Funds and
Promise to Obey or Resign.**

Expulsion from the Assembly of the five Socialist members is warranted, according to a report of the Bronx County Bar Association, made public yesterday. The report, made by a special committee appointed to study the Socialist platforms and constitutions, holds that the pledges required of Socialist candidates make them ineligible for public office.

Although the report states that the inquiry of the committee was not concerned with "the merits or demerits of any pending proceedings against any individual, group or party," the discussion is confined to the Socialist Party, and the conclusions arrived at relate to conditions similar to those in the case of the five suspended Assemblymen. The report is more general in its scope than the action of the New York State and County Bar Association, which opposed the ousting of the Socialists.

The discussion is divided into consideration of, first, the conceded facts; second, the law applicable; third, the conclusions arrived at. Under the first heading the report reprints the national Socialist platform, the national Socialist constitution, the State Socialist constitution, the 1919 manifesto, the 1916 anti-war proclamation and the majority war report adopted at St. Louis in 1917 after our declaration of war.

In conclusion the report holds:

1. That the section of the Socialist constitution providing that any one who votes

to appropriate money for military purposes shall be expelled from the party is in conflict with the express terms and underlying principles of our State and national constitutions.

2. That the pledge required of Socialist candidates that they will resign for failure to carry out the instructions of the dues-paying members of the party is in conflict with our State and national constitutions and any one who is proved to have acted in pursuance of that pledge may be removed or expelled from office. It is within the power of the Legislature to make ineligible for office one who signs such a pledge.

3. That the opinions and sentiments expressed in the manifesto, proclamations and platform of the Socialist Party are "most vicious and unpatriotic."

The report is signed by Alexander A. Mayer, as Chairman; Franz Sigel, George F. Stiebling, Howard C. Kelley, Edward R. Koch and Herbert A. Knox.